The country has achieved nearly 95% of self-sufficiency in urea production in 1999-2000. The new gas based plants which have come up in 1990's along the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur(HBJ) pipeline consequent to which urea production has become concentrated in the Western and Northern States. However, it has not affected supply of urea to other States including States in Eastern Zone. Urea demand of the Eastern States has been met from supply from indigenous plants as well as imports.

As per the Industrial Policy of 24th July, 1991, no industrial licence is required for setting up of fertilizer projects except that in case of fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings/Co-operative Societies, approval of the Government is required for incurring capital expenditure beyond the delegated powers. At present, one revamp project of Namrup plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) in Namrup, Assam is under implementation for additional capacity of 3.28 LMT of Urea at an estimated cost of Rs. 350 crore is under implementation.

Chemical Accidents Rules, 1996

2796. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 prescribe multitiered crisis response groups; and

(b) if so, what steps have taken to set up Emergency Response Centres in densely industrialised pockets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government provides financial assistance, on a cost sharing basis between the Central Government, the State Government and the industry, for setting up of Emergency Response Centres. So far financial assistance has been provided for setting up four Emergency Response Centres in the country.

Supply of Polyester Chips to M/s JBF Industries Ltd. by IPCL

2797. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.

had supplied polyester chips valued at Rs. 4 crore to M/s JBF Industries Ltd., Mumbai in 1996, on credit;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, including the terms and conditions of the credit;

(c) whether the outstanding dues have since been recovered;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have since fixed up the responsibility in this case; and

(f) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (f) The Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) had, during April- July, 1996, supplied Polyester Chips valued at Rs. 3.90 crore to JBF Industries, Mumbai, on credit against the co-lateral security of shares and against advance cheques. The party, to whom the said sale on credit was made, defaulted in payment. IPCL has filed a Criminal case against the party on account of dishonouring of cheques as also a civil Recovery Suit against the said party. The cases are pending before the concerned Courts of Law. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), in the report for the year 2000, has included a paragraph on this subject, which is receiving Government's attention.

Policy for Payment of Subsidy

†2798. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Government conditions and policy regarding the subsidy being given on urea and other fertilizer products to public sector and private sector in the country;

(b) what are the details of subsidy given to private and public sector plants during the last three years, separately, and the amount of subsidy, plant-wise, disbursed;

(c) whether Government have recently taken any decision to discontinue the subsidy or to recover it; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.